

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Koskinen
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 7604 Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

May 28, 2014

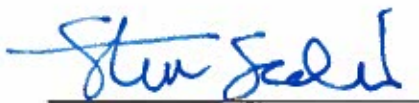
Dear Commissioner Koskinen,

Recently, we wrote to you raising serious objections to the Internal Revenue Service's proposed rule (REG-134417-13), which would severely limit the free speech rights of civic organizations based upon the political beliefs of their membership. The right to assemble and freely discuss the political landscape, candidates, or ballot initiatives, is one of the most fundamental rights that we enjoy in our democracy, and the federal government needs to immediately abandon any efforts at stifling this.

Last Thursday's announcement that the IRS is abandoning its proposed change is both welcome and troubling. We applaud your admission that your proposal was flawed and needed to be abandoned. However, rather than finding a more creative way to harass taxpayers with further revisions, you should abandon any attempt at a rewrite and instead focus on ensuring that the substantial backlog of 501(c)(4) applications are expeditiously reviewed and processed, free from partisan politics.

The current, longstanding rules have worked to protect the rights of civic groups and their members for more than fifty years, and we urge you join us in protecting these groups from the politically motivated abuses of power many have already been subjected to from the IRS.

Sincerely,



Rep. Steve Scalise



Rep. Mark Meadows



Rep. Brad Wenstrup